

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 PPTE-00 SCA-01 /004 W

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P 112030Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2197

UNCLAS CURACAO 150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, NA (NICHOLS, ROBERT JOSEPH)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF R.J. NICHOLS

REFERENCE: STATE 053503

1. INSTANCE CONGRESSMAN OTIS PIKE

2. ROBERT JOSEPH NICHOLS DIED IN ARUBA MARCH 2, 1975
BUT BODY NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL MARCH 4, 1975 IN STATE OF
PUTREFACTION. NICHOLS WIFE, MRS. CONNIE NICHOLS, 5505
WOODSIDE AVENUE, QUEENS, N.Y. 11377, TEL: (212) HA60008
WAS CONTACTED BY HIS FRIENDS IN ARUBA, WHERE HE HAD
LIVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND SHE APPROVED OF LOCAL BURIAL.
HE HAS EXPRESSED WISH TO FRIENDS AND EX-EMPLOYER IN ARUBA
THAT IN EVENT OF HIS DEATH HE BE BURIED IN ARUBA.

3. CONGEN HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL DEATH CERTIFICATE
OR DOCTOR'S STATEMENT RE CAUSE OF DEATH BUT IT HAS BEEN
UNOFFICIALLY STATED TO HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE
OF TRANQUILIZERS, SLEEPING PILLS AND ALCOHOL.

4. NICHOLS HAD BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS BUT
HIS EX-EMPLOYER KING INTERNATIONAL CASINO, HOLIDAY INN,
ARUBA, WHERE HE HAD BEEN A MUSICIAN, PAID ALL FUNERAL
EXPENSES AND SOME OTHER DEBTS HE OWED IN ARUBA.

5. FUNERAL SERVICE WAS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH BY A ROMAN
CATHOLIC PRIEST ATTENDED BY ABOUT 30 FELLOW MUSICIANS WHO
PLAYED FOR THE SERVICE AND DONATED MONEY TO PURCHASE A
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TOMBSTONE.

6. DISINTERMENT UNDER NA LAW CAN TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER
THE BODY HAS BEEN BURIED THREE YEARS AND REQUIRES THE
PERMISSION OF THE LT. GOVERNOR. EXEMPTION FROM THIS
THREE YEAR REQUIREMENT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. LOCAL
LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE EMBALMING AND IT WAS NOT DONE IN THIS
CASE.

7. PASSPORT A903384 ISSUED MAY 22, 1970 AT NEW YORK,
SOC SEC 022-14-6863. FS-192 WILL FOLLOW ASAP. LOFTON

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NNN

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